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# AN AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ITALY

BY

RALPH ELLIOTT ABELL

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THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

IN ARCHITECTURE

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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRESENTED JUNE 1904

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OF Bachelor of Science in Architecture

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# An American Embassy in Italy.

The general requirements to be met in the solution of the problem about to be considered, — "An American Embassy", necessitated the formulation of a set of conditions based upon (1) the duties of an Ambassador, (2) the climatic and (3) the topographical state of affairs existent in the Metropolis of Italy the intended location for this Embassy.

The duties (1) of an Ambassador, we find, are principally social in nature. It is his duty, as a representative of the most honored governmental office possible to man, to encourage friendly relations and preserve good feeling, both politically and socially, toward the country which he represents.

As to climatic conditions (2), Central Italy has long, hot and

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dry summers and a comparatively open winter. Hence the general characteristics of thick walls, over-hanging eves and other projections from heat should strongly influence the expression in design of buildings in this district.

The piece of land (3) allotted to the United States Government as the site for this Embassy is a piece of ground equivalent in size to a large city block. The property is rolling, lies in the suburbs of Rome on a prominent Bulevard and is easily accessible by cabs and other suburban service. The site chosen is an ideal one, and besides having a small brook running thro it, there are, also, many natural features which are capable of considerable beautification.

In accordance with the conditions above stated, it was deemed advisible to erect three buildings, connected

by corridors, each being devoted to its particular need.

(a) Entertainment Building.
(b.) Executive Building.
(c.) Ambassador's Residence.

The conditions which follow are those suggested by Professor Fisk, (department of commerce U. of I), who has been second secretary to an Ambassador in Berlin. These conditions have been considerably elaborated by the designer, however, in order that the solution of the problem under consideration may be made an ideal one.

The reader should refer to the drawings for all details of arrangement.

## Description of Buildings

The main portion of the "Entertainment Building" is two stories high, with one story wings. The rooms contained in the main floor are approached thro large

entrances in the front and rear, also by subordinate entrances at the ends of the building. The rooms are as follows: —

Large Reception Room
Lobbies at each end

Small Reception Room
Music Room
Dining Room
Mens Smoking Room - Toilet
Ladies Retiring Room - Toilet

Accessible by two stairways, leading off of Lobbies on first floor, is the large Ball Room. This room with its accessories, occupies the whole of the second floor, and, as this apartments gives its name to the whole building, its level has been treated as the "belle étage."

The entire structure will be constructed of brick and terra-cotta; the interior walls of all vestibules and corridors being of the same

material treated in glazes and color. Ceilings of "Large Reception Room" etc., are beamed and decorated in color; those of "Ball Room" vaulted, highly ornamented and decorated in color. The opportunities for a delightful color scheme, both inside and out, are sufficiently obvious and are within the limitations of the materials employed.

The "Executive Building" and Ambassador's Residence, each two stories in height, are united with the "Entertainment Building", at each of its ends, by corridors. The treatment of each is similar to that of the main building.

The following offices are located on first floor of Executive Building:

Reception Room for Ambassador.
Private Office for Ambassador.
Office - Military attaché.
Two offices for secretaries - vaults

The first floor of "Ambassador's Residence contains the following rooms:

Vestibule
Staircase Hall
Back Hall
Two Reception Rooms
Living Room
Library
Dining Room
Conservatory
Kitchen

Apartments for guests are located on second floors of "Executive Building" and Ambassador's Residence, respectively, and are within easy access, thro connecting corridors, to main building.

A study of the foregoing conditions will, it is hoped, justify the solution of the problem here presented.

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